

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply is being filed in accordance with the Notification of Requested New Format for Amendments and/or Responses Filed in Art Units 1634, 2827, and 2834, dated December 20, 2002.

In accordance with the Requested New Format, a clean version of the claims is not to be included in this amendment and reply.

By way of this Amendment and Reply, claims 13 and 20 have been amended, and claims 29-32 have been canceled. Claims 13-15 and 17-23 are presently pending for further consideration on the merits.

It is noted that claims 24-26, 28 and 31-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. However, due to the amendments made to independent claims 24 and 28 to include the features of now-canceled claims 31 and 32, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that rejoinder of claims 24-26, 28 and 33 into this application is proper. See MPEP Section 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, USPQ2d 1127 (Fed.Cir. 1995).

Applicants' representative appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 29 and 30.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the features of objected to (and now canceled) claim 29, and independent claim 20 has been amended to include the features of objected to (and now canceled) claim 30. Thus, independent claims 13 and 20, as well as dependent claims 14, 15, 17-19 and 21-23, are now in allowable form.

In the Office Action, claims 13-15, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,587,342 to Lin et al. Due to the amendments made to independent claims 13 and 20 to include the features of objected to claims 29 and 30, respectively, this rejection has been mooted.

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.